employment contract. Indian Missions in Gulf Countries have informed that there is no report of large scale return of Indians even in the context of the global economic slowdown. The report from United Arab Emirates (UAE) indicates that, though the exact figure is not available, about 50,000 to 1,50,000 emigrants have returned because of delay in execution of projects. They have come on leave without pay expecting to return when the economic situation improves.

(b) Such information is not maintained.

(c) Does not arise.

Amendment in RTI Act

2182. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to amend the Right to Information Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some reservation against the proposal has been expressed by several quarters; and

(d) if so, in what manner it proposed to address the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (d) The Government proposes to strengthen right to information by suitably amending the laws to provide for disclosure by government in all non strategic areas. In this regard, it is proposed to review the second schedule to the Right to Information Act, 2005 and make rules for more disclosure of information by public authorities. Government has received representations expressing doubts about the proposed amendments. Non-Government Organisations and social activists will be consulted on the proposed amendments.

Cases forwarded to CBI by Maharashtra

2183. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases that have been forwarded to CBI for investigation by the State Government of Maharashtra since 2001 along with the list of such cases;

(b) the details of such cases that have been investigated and completed so far;

(c) the number of cases pending with CBI untouched; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The State Government of

Maharashtra has recommended 7 cases for investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) since 2001, out of which 5 cases have been entrusted to CBI for investigation. Out of these 5 cases, investigation has been completed by CBI in 3 cases as follows:—

(1) CRM/2205/4/POL-11 dated 11.01.2005

(2) PCR-1103/CR/332/SPL-6 dated 20.11.2006

(3) EAR-0306/C-112-POL-09 dated 11.01.2007

(c) None.

(d) Does not arise.

Functioning of public grievances hearing mechanism

2184. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any assessment of the functioning of public grievances hearing mechanism in various departments of Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that in most of the departments the mechanism is not effective and it exists only for name's sake;

(c) whether Government has issued any guidelines, in this regard; and

(d) whether any legislation for regulating public grievances mechanism is under consideration of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) The Government has not made any assessment of the functioning of public grievance hearing mechanism in various departments of Government. Each Ministry/Department has a Director of Public Grievance, who ensures that grievances of citizens are redressed. Steps are being taken to strengthen the internal redress machinery of individual Ministry/Department. Guidelines have been issued from time to time to Ministries/Departments including guidelines to redress grievances of citizen within a period of two months and also to give a reasoned reply within the said period if a grievance cannot be redressed.

(d) No, Sir.

Frequent transfer of Civil Servants

2185. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that most of the IAS, IPS and All India officers working in the States are frequently transferred without substantial reasons and mostly due to political reasons;

(b) if so, whether Government would make model transfer policy giving officers fixed tenure and ask the States to abide by the norms of fixed tenure;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;